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Modest Proposal for Japan
—George P. Carlin

THE

Commonweal

Europe's Image of America

by Joseph M. Duffy, Jr.

Wallace Fowlie Vivian Mercier Jean Holzhauer

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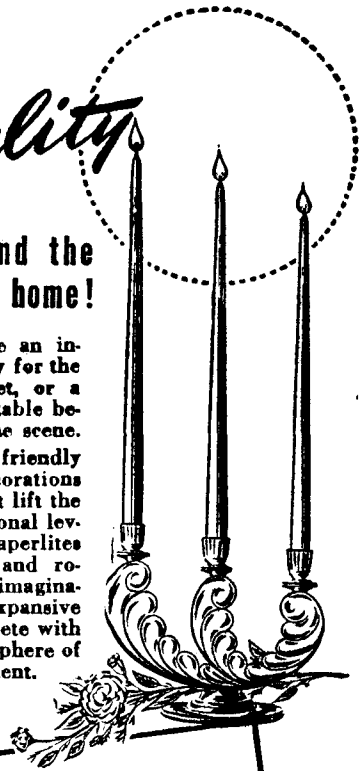

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THE

Commonweal

week by week

AFTER GUATEMALA

THE outcome of the struggle in Guatemala is still not clear. The underlying issues are. In them the United States can read an oft-told, still unheeded story.

Guatemala is poor. The pages of its history are marked by exploitation of the peasants and by abuse of power. Workers on the coffee plantations often make less than fifty cents a day. Most of them have never learned to read or write.

That is part of the picture of Guatemala—a land where men work on the coffee plantations in the sun all day, and gladly, in order to make forty or fifty cents. For decades the gap between rich and poor in Guatemala has seemed unbridgeable. The tragedy is that there have been so few willing to make even an effort.

In a very real way, the free nations in 1954 are suffering because of the sins of the past, and this is as true in Guatemala as it is in Asia. The Communists in Latin America use the United Fruit Company in slogans designed to arouse the poor but they are able to do so successfully only because the company's past record is made to order for Communist agitation. Today United Fruit pays $2 a day, the highest wage for laborers in the country, and other U. S. firms in Latin America follow similarly improved policies. But memories of past exploitation die hard, and it will be a long time before these memories die in Latin America.

The Communists in Guatemala are estimated to number only about two thousand, out of a population of nearly three million. They hold no seats in the Cabinet. Although the now-resigned President Arbenz was strongly influenced by Communists around him, he is not himself thought to be a Party-member. Out of the fifty-six seats in the Guatemalan Congress, Communists held only four.

Yet despite their numerical insignificance, there is little doubt that the Communists had a dominant part in the Guatemalan government. One reason they were able to play such a leading role was the scarcity of non-Communist reformers. Although few in number, the Communists were, as always, active and well disciplined. They flung themselves into the land reform program with enthusiasm, doing the tedious field work and carrying out the hard chores no one else wanted to undertake. As a result, before long the Communists were completely identified in the minds of the land-hungry peasants with agrarian reform. In a country where some two per cent of the population owned seventy per cent of the land, this fact gave the Communists an almost unbeatable advantage.

In short, the Communists in Guatemala did what Communists have done many times elsewhere. They took advantage of the situation as they found it. They identified themselves in the popular mind with the social reforms which were badly needed. They worked zealously, while all too many non-Communists either sat idly by or fought needed reforms tooth-and-nail. If the pattern is a familiar one, it became familiar only because the Communists have found it an almost sure-fire way to success.

AT this writing, no one can predict with any degree of accuracy the upshot of the fighting in Guatemala. But certain lessons can be learned which should have been learned before.

The fight against Communism remains a two-front war. The fact that this has been said often before in no way lessens its truth. Here in the United States the Communists have lost the battle of ideas. In the universities and in the labor unions, among the intellectuals and among the workers, Communism has no substantial following. In this country the battle of ideas has been fought, and democracy has won. (The U. S. does not, for instance, have to fear a Communist sweep in the 1954 elections.) Our problem as a nation now is to counter Communist aggression elsewhere, while guarding against espionage at home by a small but dedicated group of Party-members.

In other countries, the battle for men's loyalties has not yet been decided. This is especially true

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in areas with long histories of economic exploitation, poverty or colonialism. In such areas, the emphasis in the battle against Communism will necessarily be different. Armed force may be needed to keep the Communists from violent seizure of power. But it would be foolish to think that the use of such force will provide more than a useful framework of orderly government. Within that framework the task of social reform must go forward.

The Industrial Revolution is not yet over. Men have learned that it is not necessarily part of the natural order of things for a few to live in comfort while thousands suffer. Because the United States is a rich country, and one of the earliest beneficiaries of the Industrial Revolution, it is often hard for us to see things as men in poorer nations do. Yet if we are to achieve peace, it is essential that we be able to suffer with the children of the laborer on the coffee plantation, sweat with the Guatemalan peasant laboring in the heat of the day, taste a little of the land-hunger which he has known for generations. We cannot let our riches insulate us from the world.

The pattern of poverty and exploitation which prepared the way for the Communists in Guatemala is neither better nor worse than that in many other Latin American countries. Local non-Communist leadership must be developed, and social and economic abuses met head-on. Otherwise the Communists, marching under the banners of social reform, will capture the leadership of still other nations. If that is allowed to happen, the drama of Guatemala will be repeated, on a larger stage. We can hardly say we were not warned.

NEXT WEEK

WILL HERBERG writes about anti-Semitism and America's future:

"Organized anti-Semitism is definitely on the wane in this country; even the 'hidden' forms that make themselves felt in prejudice and discriminatory practices are in decline. . . . The change in public feeling brought about by the war and the immediate postwar period seems to be deep and far-reaching. . . . The threat of a stifling conformity is real, but it is much more subtle and insidious than a largely imaginary political terrorism. Political terrorism, where it exists, we can take care of, but how are we to deal with the spread of the cult of 'adjustment'? This constitutes a real problem for our entire American culture, but above all for the American Jew, who would necessarily be the first victim of a culture in which other-directed conformism allowed no room for 'eccentricity', individuality, and non-adjustment."

THE WHEAT ACREAGE CUT

WHILE the farm bloc has long been a familiar phenomenon in Congress, it took the big depression, and the New Deal reaction to it, to put across the idea that national prosperity and the farmer's economic well-being have a causal relationship. The chief impetus for the continuance of high-level, rigid crop supports in the intervening years has continued to come from Representatives and Senators from agricultural states, but there has been greater acceptance by the American public of the general principle of parity.

There are signs, however, that citizens are no longer willing to keep on paying higher taxes and food prices when they lead to unmanageable surpluses year after year. Millions of pounds of butter and other perishables threaten to spoil in government storage; the Department of Agriculture has not even hit upon a feasible method of giving them away in areas, or to persons, in great need of protective foods. Meanwhile, wheat and other more durable stocks under government loans have also piled up in unheard of proportions. The feeling is growing that something has to be done about it.

So much can be said for the political appeal of Secretary Ezra Taft Benson's cutback of wheat acreages to fifty-five million acres next year (the figure was seventy-eight million in 1953). This curtailment on production has been further stiffened by insisting on "cross compliance," which compels the nation's farmers to withhold their excess wheat acres from producing other surplus crops, as compliance with all federal acreage allotments is to be a requirement for subsidies on any crop.

If the Secretary of Agriculture surmised that he would secure a measure of general support for this realistic step, he knew it would arouse opposition in farm areas. This has not deterred Mr. Benson before and it is unlikely to disturb him on this occasion. He gives every indication of being an administrator of rigid principle who goes down the line for what he believes, regardless. Yet he is conscientious about seeking competent advice. It is not necessary to agree with his national farm program in all its ramifications—or even in its main outlines—to recognize that in Mr. Benson the Eisenhower Administration has an unusually independent and statesmanlike department head.

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GERMAN SOVEREIGNTY

WEST Germany's comeback since the war is unique. With an energy that has belied the battering and privation they endured especially in that conflict's latter years, the German people have tackled the disabilities that confronted them one by one. They have cleared much of the rubble of their shattered cities, rebuilt homes and industrial plants, stabilized the currency, and sent out their products to the markets of the world. They have even added to their reserves, although this has been at the expense of imports and the living standards of white-collar and unskilled workers.

The Germany of Dr. Adenauer is on the move, which supplies an added reason for impatience over her unresolved international status. Over two years after the EDC agreement was concluded it remains unratified. Not only does the European Army continue to be unprovided for, but German sovereignty has not been restored.

It will be curious to observe the impact on this situation of the accession of M. Mendes-France. The optimists would have it that peace with Indochina (involving at least partial withdrawal) will lead to French ratification of the EDC and Bonn treaties. But already there are enough feelers out to indicate that the new French Premier's formula of reducing his nation's commitments is to be applied in Europe also. If the modifications on which the French insist prove to be as sweeping as now forecast, ratification of the agreements in their new form by the other European nations would have to begin all over again. Further and disastrous delay would seem inevitable.

The apprehensions of the smaller European nations are therefore understandable. A Germany that herself went ahead and proclaimed the restoration of her sovereignty or came to an independent agreement with Soviet Russia would be upsetting the postwar applecart. That is one reason for the British and Americans to prevail upon France for some despatch if not upon Germany for more patience. It explains why the sober London *Economist* advicates giving the French a July 31 deadline. Otherwise we and the British would devise some other method of bringing Germany into NATO.

THE PRICE OF CIGARETTES

NOT even the hearty puritans who have crusaded against tobacco for decades were pleased to learn the grim findings of the American Cancer Society *re* cigarette smoking and the dread disease. It has not been scientifically proved yet that puffing the weed is the direct cause of cancer, but some "cause-and-effect relationship" seems beyond dispute.

One hates to see any industry burdened with the problems now facing the cigarette people, but there is an ironic note here that can hardly be missed. Perhaps no other American industry has been quite as blatant, misleading and double-talking in its advertising as the tobacco people. Nor as shortsighted. By the skillful use of men in white coats and the juxtaposition of rival pseudo-medical claims, the cigarette advertisers for years have linked their product with health problems.

With their hold on people, cigarettes may win out after all. Certainly, with our Prohibition experience behind us, it would be foolhardy to forbid their sale. Perhaps the most drastic (and effective) step that could be taken would be to print on every package the genuine "medical findings" of the American Cancer Society.

CATHOLICS AND POPULATION PROBLEMS

TWO separate items in this issue of The Commonweal bear a strong relationship to each other. The first is Mr. George Carlin's article on the growth of birth control in postwar Japan, due in large measure to American influence. The other is a letter from Mr. Arthur M. Churchill on the world population problem, found in the Communications section.

For the benefit of our non-Catholic readers, it may be useful to spell out again that the opposition of the Church to contraception, in the last analysis, is based on the very simple fact that such a practice is against the law of God. Being intrinsically evil, contraception cannot be justified even when it is thought of as a means to a good end. For Catholics at least, therefore, birth control, in the usual sense of the phrase, is no answer to the problems of underfed, ill-housed, ill-clothed, disease-ridden populations where there is too little food for so many people.

But to say this is not to relieve Catholics of the special burden that is theirs in finding some solution to the manifold problems of overpopulation. These problems are not solved after one has pointed out the evil of contraception. We do not divest ourselves of responsibility because we have stood up valiantly for the Natural Law. The problems remain, and so do Catholic obligations. As science cuts down infant deaths, promotes sanitary conditions and prolongs human life, the number of people on earth naturally rises. It would be

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hypocritical to rest content in condemning contraception and then sit back and wait for malnutrition, famine and wars to cut down the population.

What to do? Given the statistics and the present possibilities, the tasks look almost hopeless. There are many long-range possibilities being talked about (new techniques in agriculture, the use of sea-food, etc.) but again we cannot sit back and wait for some fanciful (or even real) revolution in food-production to solve present problems. Hungry people, sick people, wretched people cannot wait for the science-fiction future.

People ask for bread. We cannot hand them the stone of planned-parenthood formulas, nor indeed the syllogisms of the Natural Law. Catholics above all others should take a brighter interest in sharing our own wealth, scientific knowledge and technical know-how with the underprivileged of the earth. Catholics should be in the forefront of those ready to open the immigration doors to at least some of the millions who are homeless on the earth. How many young Catholics, laymen, even think of an apostolate in terms of service to the underdeveloped regions of the world? A Point Four director in a Middle Eastern state recently told one of our editors that he could not find enough applicants among college graduates for the jobs open in his department; the Catholic schools, he said, produced practically none.

The Natural Law, clearly, is unchanging. Nothing we do or fail to do will alter its clear claims on the human conscience. But, in this case, the defense of God's law surely involves more than the repetition of its formulation. It requires us to act, in a hundred different ways—none of which separately will solve the world's population problem but all of which together will change a picture that now looks black indeed.

SPLINTERED FREEDOM

THE two sets of meetings held the weekend of June 27 marked an end and a beginning, neither of which bodes well for the United States. They marked the end of the generally-accepted American initiative in leadership which has characterized events in the West since 1945. Initiative is something quite different from the responsibility which comes from physical power, and the initiative is gone from us, in part a consequence of our abdication.

The fate of Southeast Asia is now in the hands of a Franco-British alliance on our side, and in the most capable hands of Chou En-lai for the Communist side, with Mr. Nehru the balance.

The fate of Europe is in the hands of the French and the Germans.

We supported plans for both regions. The one for Southeast Asia was unsatisfactory to our friends and was indeed a failure of our creation, for we did not really know what we wanted to do and fell back on unsupported bluff.

The plan for Europe which we supported has also been rejected by our friends — rejected at the moment at least, although it may ultimately win out for simple lack of anything better.

But in both areas the United States has in some degree been repudiated, and in Asia the nice balance of abdication and repudiation may spell the end for free Asia. When Mr. Chou stepped off the plane at New Delhi en route to Burma and possibly to Indonesia he was merely collecting chips; he won the Geneva game. His agreement with Prime Minister Nehru, ironically based on the previous pact by which India rationalized the Chinese conquest of Tibet, makes his nation dominant in Asia. Mr. Nehru may well keep India out of Communist hands—he shows no illusions about domestic Communism—but the agreement will be icy comfort to Asian anti-Communists. Mr. Nehru has thus neutralized Southeast Asia.

And Mr. Chou, who dominated the Communist side at Geneva and made the Americans look like petulant children, has now enough recognition to satisfy any statesman. A seat at the UN would merely be frosting on his cake.

What do we Americans do now? One hopes that we can do better than make vice-presidential speeches blaming it all on Dean Acheson. Mr. Acheson has enough knives sticking out of him from 1952; he deserves better of us.

The factors on our side include the fundamental truth that the United States, France, and the NATO and Commonwealth nations have one common goal, and NATO, Great Britain and the United States have a very wide area of agreement on the specific means necessary to reach the goal. When this much agreement exists, a common policy is surely possible. We and our Allies forged such a policy when we united at the end of the war, when we created NATO, when Europe ratified the Schuman Plan, and when we intervened in Korea. It requires great concessions from individual nations and their peoples, concessions indeed of a measure of sovereignty itself. But we have seen in the past year where unilateral actions and threats can take us. Influential people on both sides of the Atlantic have suggested the creation of an Anglo-American policy planning staff. Surely this much is not impossible. We are defending a civilization, not a clutch of political parties.

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Europe's Image of America

WHAT FACTUAL BASIS IS THERE FOR THE PREVAILING CONCEPTIONS AND MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT US?

JOSEPH M. DUFFY, JR.

ULYSSES, that cunning Platonist in "Troilus and Cressida," uses an ingenious argument in an effort to charm Achilles back into battle for the Greeks. A man's virtue, Ulysses tells his sullen compatriot, has no objective existence unless it is perceived in action and admired by other men. The projected image, once observed, is then cast back again to its source and its reality confirmed:

> his virtues shining upon others
> heat them, and they retort that heat again
> To the first giver.

We cannot, in short, claim to be what we know we are unless we have the corroborating opinion of others —so, at least, Shakespeare's crafty hero maintains.

Unless we are willing to believe—as some Americans apparently are — that all the world is either near-sighted or perverse in its judgment of the United States, we might consider that there may be a basis in fact for some of the prevailing conceptions and misconceptions of America and Americans among our European cousins.

In view of the McCarthy hearings, the charges and counter-charges among persons in and out of high places, the ugly spasms of terror over possible subversion of our government, our industries, our schools and churches, the sententious proclamations of foreign policy and the hasty second thoughts on policy, the timidity of the Executive with regard to the whims of Congress and the timidity of Congress with regard to the whims of the electorate, we have lost less, perhaps, of our dignity in the world than we deserve. If it leads to ameliorative self-examination, official concern over world opinion is a good sign. More salutory still would be the wholesale transportation of responsible Americans, including Congressmen, to distant lands where they might view at close range the impressions held about the United States.

AMERICAN tourists, together with the military, provide Europeans with their only palpable impressions. Comic, quaint, strident, and occasionally endearing, the tourists, that ever proliferating, magnificently indefatigable and inquisitive horde, cannot be neglected. Equipped with postcards, maps, guidebooks, cameras, they swarm over Picadilly, the Champs Elysees, the Via Veneto and they astonishingly materialize in remote places—on a path off the Appian Way, in the tiniest of tiny restaurants on the Left Bank, in a foresaken pub on the Yorkshire moors. At once innocent and shrewd, amiable and truculent, generous and petty, cowed and overbearing, they have come over here to be envied, admired, despised, and swindled and to contribute, for better or worse, to the paradoxical image of America.

On a different and larger scale the movies have been responsible for the usual fantasy of the United States, and they have been perhaps too much abused for their fabulous commemoration of a land that never was. These notions are easily dissipated although in some cases it seems a pity to do so, for the picture has the engaging simplicity of a fairy tale.

Aspects of the Hollywood-created myth evidently have official sanction because the United States Information Service recently showed itself willing to become a partner in the enchantment. In a USIS exhibition of "The U.S.A. Today" which toured provincial England last winter, the most elaborate and popular display was devoted to the American Indian—complete with tribal drums and specimens of ceremonial dress. There were no crowds around the panels illustrating union organization in the United States and few, if any, visitors leafed through the copy of *The Kenyon Critics* in the sample library, but the lure of the Indian was overwhelming.

We must be prepared to be disliked or suspected or patronized because we are wealthy and powerful or because of the way we talk and dress or because our soldiers are over here. We must expect to be made scapegoats by those who need to bolster their pride or to turn away their thoughts from their own shame. We must not even be surprised when we are unreasonably hated—and this is hardest of all for Americans to bear. We should not underestimate the ones

Mr. Duffy has spent the past year traveling and studying in Europe on a Fulbright scholarship.

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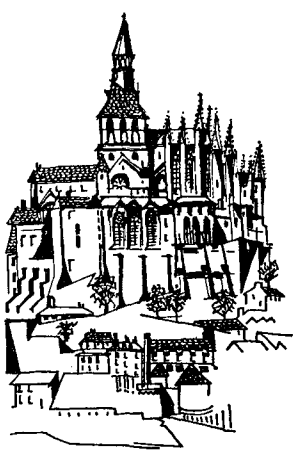
who are so wretched that they neither love nor hate but can only respond with a massive tropistic gesture to any promise of a better existence.

In preparing this report I have generally avoided recording the irremediable prejudice of the ignorant or the wide-eyed misrepresentation of the professional (i.e. political) anti-American. For the present purpose the most significant and useful impressions, whether erroneous or accurate, are to be found among the uncommitted middle-group and among the critical friends of the United States. Even here there is ample material for one to play a Cassandra role. The clippings, the interviews, the recalled conversations present instance after instance in which our way of life has appeared degraded, our motives have been impugned, and our policies have been seen as dangerous and mismanaged. The picture is disturbing and also revealing, for no mirror can distort a non-existent object.

A TIME will soon come, perhaps, when an article of this kind can be written and no outstanding mention will need be made of Senator McCarthy. Then he will simply be a skeleton in the American closet, a collapsed pile of bones which we can never quite forget, for which we can never quite forgive ourselves. The time is certainly not now.

Even the staid *Sunday Times* broke out in a startling headline to record the bizarre Army-McCarthy controversy: "McCarthy Is Like a Gored Bull at Bay White House Acting as Picadors." Among intellectuals, professional people, the reasonably well-informed and educated—not among the masses—McCarthy's influence on the American scene is one of the first topics of conversation; and not only are his own activities widely reported, but it is a matter for international distress or applause when an American cardinal beams across the breakfast table at him or an American bishop identifies him as a confidence man.



Despite Senator McCarthy's prodigious personal achievement in subverting the prestige of the United States abroad, he is also merely a symptom of prevailing domestic tendencies that confuse Europeans. At best they provoke dismay and scepticism about our conduct of internal affairs; at worst they excite derisive abuse. These tendencies, broad in outline and diverse in particulars, all seem to originate in a revised version of the familiar American concept of freedom. They appear to have created an atmosphere which the Manchester *Guardian* describes as one of "intolerance, unfairness, and intellectual cowardice."

An American might identify this apparently new trend with a complex of forces in our culture which have always been struggling, sometimes successfully, for assertion. When Congress cheered the President's claim, in his January State of the Union message, that twenty-two hundred security risks had been dismissed from the government (a magic number that subsequently kept shrinking under persistent scrutiny from newsmen), the *Economist* wryly noted that Americans seem to feel safest when the greatest number of subversives have been discovered among them. But the *Economist* only partly understood the point. The cheers arose because Congress, a collection of individuals at least as simple-minded as other Americans, believed that evil can be rooted out once and for all. A good round number like twenty-two hundred seemed appropriate to the magnitude of the evil, and the legislators were, consequently, relieved and triumphant.

In the play, "Oklahoma!," which was extremely successful in England as well as in the United States, the actors sing "Poor Jud is Dead" with sadistic relief because they know that once Jud has been killed they can look forward to an endless succession of beautiful mornings and limitless vistas of corn as high as an elephant's eye. The lesson of perverted optimism is plain: if only you are shrewd enough and strong enough and cruel enough, you can dispose of evil once and for all and enjoy the beatitude you deserve. Once they have been identified for what they are, the subversive individuals, Jud, Satan, can be exorcised with finality. The menace always comes from "outside" and the serpent to be scotched is always "un-American."

A member of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, who also expressed doubts that American financial aid had been judiciously distributed in Italy, pointed out that a disparity seems to exist between America's public espousal of the ideal of freedom and its practical application of that ideal. In this case he was referring to the difficulties encountered by his countrymen in obtaining visas to the United States. Rejection because of past or present political associations bewildered them, he said, because party attachments were not considered of critical importance in Italy. Why then, they wondered, should it be so difficult for them to enter the traditional land of freedom.

Another Italian Deputy, speaking on the broad subject of immigration, commented on the impression of "egotism" conveyed among his people by our selective immigration laws. It resembles, he said, the proud selfishness of a philanthropist who gives away

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what he does not need and holds himself aloof from the recipients of his excess wealth.

In England, where there is no strong urge to emigrate to the United States, members of Parliament have complained because even as government representatives they are subject to the fingerprint requirements for United States visas—a trivial but obnoxious regulation for the fastidiously libertarian English.

IT is a commonly held and not altogether groundless view that entrance into the United States has become as difficult for non-Americans to attain as entrance into the Iron Curtain countries. The restrictions, the rules, the excessive selectivity of our policy strain friendships everywhere and invite invidious comparisons with the situation in totalitarian countries.

The would-be visitor from the countryside has no ideas about a revisionist theory of freedom. He encounters a simple fact and makes a simple judgment—he attributes our attitude to pride, selfishness, hypocrisy. At a more sophisticated level, however, the complications of our new immigration laws, the unseemly conduct of our investigating committees, the improvised charges of perjury where no other offense can be proved are all interpreted as symbolic of a new era in the United States. They describe a pattern of anti-intellectualism, of insistence upon conformity and irritation with anomalies, and of impatience with the ordinary legalities.

As more items fit the pattern, large assumptions become easier to make. At the end of a discussion of recent events in the United States, an English university professor maintained that our country is now distinguished for many qualities—for its power, its wealth, its comfortable way of life—but not any longer for its freedom. That renown belongs to the past, he said, and there was no tenor of blame in his statement; he was pointing almost casually to what he felt to be an established fact.

In its report on the Oppenheimer loyalty review the *Times* pointed out the danger in the United States of policy being equated with truth and criticism of policy equated with disloyalty—the Russian parallel in *Darkness at Noon* was cited by the *Times* correspondent. More recently the *Observer* commented that the case did not signal an adoption of totalitarian standards in the United States, as some have claimed, but rather an "abdication of political responsibility by the President." The latter is probably the fairer judgment, but official unwillingness to assume responsibility coupled with positive irresponsibility in other quarters produce effects which can be plausibly described as "totalitarian."

Over the past seven or eight months other highly publicized episodes have provided a substantiating basis for this impression, among them the Attorney General's exploitation of FBI files for political capital and the Republican Party's blessing (before the recent explosion) of Senator McCarthy's "Twenty Years of Treason" rampage. As soon as it seems possible that the United States has succumbed to the official-truth heresy, its willingness and ability to protect the rights of its citizens on all occasions are open to suspicion.

Even the capacity for administering justice at the highest level may be doubted. The Rosenberg Case, which seems not to have been such a *cause célèbre* in other countries, is still a subject for lively debate in France. On more than one occasion I was confounded

by the bitterness — as well as by their command of minor details — with which the French attack point by point the conduct of the trial. Behind all the logic and fact of their reasoning is the basic disbelief in the possibility of a just verdict's being reached in an atmosphere befouled by vindictiveness and easy talk of treason. It would be reassuring to believe, as much of the American press would have had us believe at the time, that these sceptics were victims of Communist propaganda. But the truth seems to be that our own deeds were mainly responsible for fashioning their convictions.

IN our foreign policy—or want of policy—we have created a dangerous impression of uncertainty and improvisation. Domestic irresponsibility, it should be emphasized, also influences European interpretation of our foreign policy. The Manchester *Guardian* recently summed up informed opinion in this regard: "But a country so torn by fear and suspicion cannot formulate its policies with care and coolness. Its Government . . . must always be looking over its shoulder to the political strains at home."

In talks with a great old Italian political leader, a French businessman, an English university vice-chancellor, with many individuals of varying opinions in different professions, the same fearful doubt was articulated: that the Untied States improvises its foreign policy rather than operates from a blueprint of definite intentions and objectives. This nagging fear, echoed again and again by the press, reached a climax

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over the apparent ambiguities of American leadership on policy towards the war in Indochina.

From over here the public voice of American policy appears divided and indeed seems at times to speak in mutually incompatible terms. At one moment it must placate an intractable group of legislators and at the next moment it must reassure the world of America's intentions—probably by qualifying or even contradicting what had just been said. Of Mr. Dulles's paradoxical statements in this respect, one M.P. wittily observed that the Secretary of State might better have his second thoughts first.

In an ironic anecdote on the Geneva Conference the *Observer,* noting that Mr. Dulles left Geneva in a grim mood and Mr. Bedell Smith arrived "quite jaunty and cheerful," explained the contrast by pointing out that Mr. Dulles was returning to the Washington "prison" while Mr. Bedell Smith had just "escaped" from it. Previously in the same comment (headed, incidentally, "Lost Prestige"), the *Observer* described the United States delegation as "isolated" and apparently "the prisoners of a small group of senators led by McCarthy and Knowland." According to the *Observer* the private views of these delegates were "sane and balanced" and contrasted "sadly with what they have to say in public if they wish to avoid Congressional investigation."

The precarious business of making critical military decisions many of which also involve profound political considerations enhances the desirability of some method of close and constant coordination of policy between the United States and Europe. In the course of the year the Manchester *Guardian* has suggested editorially the formation of a permanent planning council, either within or outside NATO, which would prepare in advance Allied response to Communist moves. Should the Russians occupy certain Baltic islands or Bulgaria advance into Greece—the *Guardian's* purely hypothetical examples—an agreed plan of action would immediately become effective.

The council would also consider such "broad political questions" as the possible conditions governing the use of atomic weapons. The existence of such an organization might well prevent the recurrence of potentially disastrous misunderstandings of the kind that developed over Indochina. This council could not exorcise the incubus of thermonuclear warfare, but it could deal reasonably with the immense revulsion over here against such warfare—a state of mind that has developed considerably since the recent American tests in the Pacific and has been a primary factor in anti-American feeling. Were such a stable planning board in operation, there would be fewer occasions for the brutal recriminations that result after hasty, improvised, and uncoordinated gestures and statements of policy. The thunder would be stolen from such performers as Senator Knowland, who appears to derive more consolation from his friends on Formosa than from the men of Whitehall, and from Mr. Bevan, who appears to find the plotters of Peking more ingenuous than the men on Pennsylvania Avenue.

When so much has been said about the decline of American prestige, it still remains to be pointed out that this is a one-sided version of the republic on the other side of the Atlantic. The version has had its abrasive effects on Europe's sensibilities, has caused consternation among our friends, and has added to the propaganda reserve of our enemies. The danger and the sheer wastefulness of such a situation are obvious. Nevertheless, although Europe may have lost some of its confidence and respect for this country, it still depends upon the perilous and admirable creative energy of the United States.

The real danger for Europe, as Professor D. W. Brogan of Cambridge recently stated, is not McCarthyism in America or American imperialism or the chances of America's involving Europe in a new world war. The danger is that America might retire altogether from Europe's affairs and let that continent and the rest of the world "go hang." But Americans no longer have the choice Huck Finn had of giving up being "sivilized" and of lighting out for the territory. The territory is now as remote in time as any legendary realm, and even the Indians have been pressed into service to bring American culture to the Europeans. Civilization has turned out to be a vastly more treacherous affair than Huck ever suspected, yet all of us have become inextricably engaged in its uncertain future.

AN APPEAL

As it has now become increasingly difficult for any more foreign missionaries to gain admittance to India, the Native Missionary Society of Pillar, founded in Goa fifteen years ago, has recently assumed a much larger role. It numbers thirty-five priests, sixteen lay brothers and one hundred and twenty-five seminarians; it now has charge of four important missions in India.

There is great emphasis on social work in each of these missions, for the Society conducts a number of dispensaries, hospitals, orphanages and schools. It is, however, greatly hampered by lack of funds. The seminarians have no chapel; they live in an unfurnished building and have to sleep on the floor; they have to get along without electricity. Moreover, there is a great need of typewriters, school buses, machinery for the Society's printing press, motorcycles for getting about to give instruction, projectors with films and so forth. Donations may be sent to Father Protasio Soares (Professor of Theology and Holy Scripture at the Seminary) c/o Our Lady of the Angels Rectory, 221 Kilburn St., Fall River, Mass.

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America's Modest Proposal

GEORGE P. CARLIN

JONATHAN Swift in 1729 ironically suggested that the problem of Ireland's having too many children, many of them starving, should be solved by killing the children and eating them as food. He entitled his argument "A Modest Proposal for Preventing the Children of the Poor People in Ireland from Becoming a Burden to their Parents or Countrymen and for Making Them Beneficial to the Public." Swift said that he had "no other motive than the public good," and observed drily, "I believe no gentleman would repine giving ten shillings for the carcass of a good fat child," adding "and money will circulate among ourselves, the goods being entirely of our own manufacture." "I grant this food will be somewhat dear," wrote Swift, "and therefore very proper to landlords, who, as they have already devoured most of the parents, seem to have best title to the children."

Japan is the Ireland of today. And the shameful and shocking story of America's reaction to Japan's greatest problem, too many people and too little land, is almost unknown to most Americans. Yet that reaction, as expressed either by direct acts or by the omissions of American government representatives in Japan in the postwar era, is household knowledge to the Japanese people, and to a considerable number of persons in India and other parts of Asia. The facts are not pretty; but they should be faced, as what we have sown, someday we may reap.

Japan is a country with eighty-five million people. By 1960 its population is expected to reach one hundred million. Its four small home islands could be placed in our single state of Montana. Japan cannot grow enough food: only a sixth of Japan is food-producing land, the rest being largely mountainous. Its people cannot emigrate in adequate numbers. The United States admits only one hundred persons from Japan a year; Australia, almost as large as the United States, admits no Japanese—barring entrance even to Japanese war brides of Australian service men; other nations have similarly high barriers.

The attitude of Australia toward Japan is particularly unfortunate. Australia has only one-tenth the population of Japan, largely clustered in cities, while its country remains one of the most underdeveloped in the world. Sir Raphael Cilento, a former Australian representative to the United Nations, recently warned his countrymen, "We have reached the point where we must effectively colonize the North [of Australia] —or lose it." Yet the Australians consistently have had a policy of "White Australia."

The United States, with its own restrictive policy, has feared to rub this most tender spot in Australia's make-up, and during its postwar Occupation in Japan, when the United States was in effect the governing power, it pushed—by quasi-official support or tacit encouragement, by positive acts and omissions—a drastic substitute "solution" for the Japanese: birth control and legalized abortions.

The Japanese Eugenics Protection Law, passed by the Japanese Diet July 13, 1948, and amended to broaden its scope on June 24, 1949, provides for: (1) legalized abortions (*ryuzan*), or as the Japanese refer to an abortion officially, the artificial interruption of pregnancy (*nishin chu zetsu*) for specifically "economic" reasons; (2) a Eugenic Protection Investigation Committee to be attached to each of eight hundred Health Centers in Japan to rule on the abortions and provide for the operations; (3) the "dissemination of knowledge" of birth control methods, the sale without restrictions of contraceptives at low price.

The law is designed to prevent the birth of babies to poverty-stricken mothers. The effects of this law, in terms of human values, make Aldous Huxley's Brave New World and George Orwell's 1984 look like the children's playgrounds.*

Abortions were illegal before the war in Japan. Under the Eugenics Protection Law, the Welfare Ministry of Japan statistics report the number of abortions performed by government doctors as follows: 246,104

Mr. Carlin, who served in Japan as a Naval Officer, is on the staff of the Long Island Star-Journal.

*Dr. Junji Ishigaki in the *Japan Planned Parenthood Quarterly* for April-June, 1953, describes the effect of unskilled medical students serving as gynecologists to meet the demand for abortions: " 'Professor, what can this be?' A small specimen was laid out for inspection as the shocked chief of staff was asked, 'Can this be a part of the intestines?' 'It can be no other than part of the small intestines, but where did it come from? You fool, get the patient hospitalized and prepare her immediately for an abdominal operation.' . . . A loop of the intestines had made its way through an opening accidentally made during the operation. But in his ignorance, the assistant had cut it out as he cleared the inside of the womb. . . ."

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in 1949; 489,111 in 1950; 638,350 in 1951; 805,524 in 1952; 532,975 in 1953. Government sources state that the actual numbers are approximately three times those of government statistics, due to the number of unreported abortions privately performed.

The responsibility which directly falls upon United States for this law is twofold: (1) the United States was in control of Japan, a defeated nation, under General Douglas MacArthur when the law was passed, and (2) an unofficial but intensive newspaper propoganda campaign carried on by American economic experts under SCAP (the Supreme Command) greatly influenced Japanese public opinion, and made the greater extension of the law possible. In fairness to the SCAP experts it should be pointed out that they did not advocate abortions, but only birth control. An indication of what the "American view" was to the Japanese citizen may be seen from the following:

"BIRTH CONTROL GETS SCAP APPROVAL. (headline). General MacArthur's adviser on population problems, [P.K.W.— on SCAP's Natural Resources Section] again gave the Occupation headquarters' tacit endorsement of a nationwide birth control educational campaign at a press conference . . ." (United Press dispatch, appearing in the Army's *Pacific Stars & Stripes,* May 14, 1949),

"EXPERT RULES JAPAN NEEDS BIRTH CONTROL. Japan has the choice of 'conscious and deliberate' birth control on an unprecedented scale, permanent dependence on U.S. aid or a future of 'bare subsistence' even lower than World War II.

"That is the frankly pessimistic conclusion of an exhaustive two volume survey of 'Japanese Natural Resources' prepared by Chicago University professor E—A—and published Friday by SCAP's Natural Resources Section. . ." (United Press dispatch by Rutherford Poates in *Pacific Stars & Stripes,* Dec. 30, 1949).

"POPULATION HELD BIG PROBLEM HERE" (headline, with the following sub-head): "Drastic Controls Needed to Restrict Growth". ". . . Unless Japan takes immediate drastic population control action an estimated minimum of 98,900,000 people will be crowded into the home islands by 1970. Such growth, in the opinion of Dr.—— T——, [American professor on General MacArthur's staff] can only result in a much lower living standard for the Japanese and possibility of another war in the Pacific.

"Already Americans are beginning to ask, 'Why should we continue to spend these large sums in Japan when the Japanese themselves do nothing to solve their own population problems?' said Dr. T———.

"Dr. T——scoffed at the idea that the Catholic Church or any other considerable body of public opinion in the United States or elsewhere would oppose birth control measures in Japan.

"Dr. T—— said he is opposed to any attempt to force birth control on the Japanese. 'It's not the democratic way,' added Dr. T——, 'and I am strenuously opposed to any kind of Hitlerism . . . '" (Associated Press story by Frank L. White, in the Tokyo English-language daily, *Nippon Times,* March 19, 1949).

"OVERPOPULATION PERIL. Oxford, Ohio, April 16—Japan faces a postwar disaster from 'overpopulation,' Dr. W——T——warned Monday.

"The Miami University population expert who just returned from Japan where he surveyed population problems, declared 'there is no help for them if population is not controlled.' . . . Dr. T—— left a report with General MacArthur in which he declared that birth control is the only hope for the future of the Japanese." (International News Service dispatch, *Nippon Times,* April 20, 1949).

GENERAL MacArthur later issued a denial that these news stories represented the official view of SCAP or the Occupation. But the headlines quoting "America's foremost population authority," and other experts, emanating from apparently official sources, had a tremendous effect on the Japanese people. The articles were reprinted in the national newspaper, *Mainichi,* and other mass-circulation Japanese newspapers. They had a particular effect in making it crystal clear that the United States did not intend to help the Japanese to solve the population problem in any other way.

The Occupation, for example, was not making any recommendations to the United States across the Pacific (or to the Australians) that consideration be given to lowering immigration barriers, to developing unused land or turning waste areas to food-production, or to reaching better trade arrangements which would allow the Japanese to export more in order to purchase more food—chiefly rice—on the open market. Perhaps

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worst of all, the Occupation indicated that it was making no attempt to bring home the facts of the Japanese population dilemma to the American public.

To the Japanese this reaction of the Occupation extinguished a hope that had flared after the war: that perhaps the United States, land of democracy and Christianity, would understand them and help them. The Japanese had fought a war for more land in the Pacific, and lost, with an atom bomb emphasizing the end. And now their hope that America would understand the population problem was snuffed out.

By 1951 the Japanese government had embarked fully on the program set up by the new law to carry out "the artificial interruption of pregnancy."

"The [Japanese] government Friday decided to push the birth control program more vigorously," the *Nippon Times*, on October 27, 1951, led off a page-one story, adding "The action was promoted by the need to protect expectant mothers in view of the rapid increase in the number of pregnant women practicing 'deconception.' [abortion]. Cases of 'artificial interruption of pregnancy' are now estimated at one million per annum."

On May 3, 1950, *Nippon Times* reported on the national abortion program as follows: "In 1949 women who sought relief from motherhood under the postwar Eugenic Protection Law numbered 246,236." This means, according to files of the Welfare Ministry, that roughly one out of every seventy-four mature women in Japan had an abortion. The paper adds: "The number does not include cases secretly handled by doctors and midwives. If these were included, the Ministry estimates there were about 750,000 cases."

WHAT are the answers to Japan's problem? They lie in America's being true to her own heritage, which is to face problems and to lick them; not to turn away from them. They can be found in the encyclicals and public statements of Pope Pius XII, who has called for (1) immigration as a "natural right"—the right of a man to leave one country to go to another if his economic livelihood depends on it; (2) a new order where there is no "cold and calculating egotism" reflected in the hoarding of natural resources; (3) charity among nations in trade and economics; (4) the development of waste areas by advanced agronomics, by the use of atomic energy, and other scientific advances; and (5) clear understanding that economics are made for man, not man for economics.

The American tradition, a tradition of responsibility, generosity and strength, has been equally ignored. Meanwhile, we have sown bad seed in Japan—and other parts of Asia—and we may well reap the whirlwind.

FROM WASHINGTON

Legislation With a Past

IN spite of the diversions of Congressional investigating committees, the legislative wars are still being fought on the floors of Congress. Legislative decisions, even negative ones, can have important consequences. A case in point which has both significance in itself and considerable interest as a case study of the legislative process in action concerns the bill S. 1461—the "Time-Lag" bill, as it railroad proponents call it, or the "Quick-Rate-Increase" bill, as its more literal-minded opponents insist on referring to it.

Here was legislation with a history—of years of study, of endless hearings, of tireless lobbyists with millions of dollars at stake, of shifting alignments of support and opposition. In the form in which it was presented to the Senate recently, S. 1461 would simply have required the Interstate Commerce Commission to make an interim ruling within sixty days on applications filed by railroads and other interstate transportation agencies for rate increases—a time limit within which the Commission had acted in its last few cases. The bill also included a couple of innocuous new rate-making standards and a system for refunding any overcharges to shippers and passengers. But, as a third-generation infant, the bill had ancestors—ancestors without its own apparent innocence. And this legislative history tagged it as just another in a long line of attempts by railroads aimed principally at destroying ICC control of rates—the key to federal protection of millions of shippers and passengers and consumers who depend on a transportation industry which in many areas is still largely monopolistic in character.

The background of S. 1461 can be traced through the long history of railroad dissatisfaction with federal regulation. But the latest chapter begins with the passage, over President Truman's veto, of the Reed-Bulwinkle bill in the Eightieth Congress—an Act which permitted railroads to join in regional and other groups for the purpose of setting rate schedules, by exempting these groups from the anti-trust laws. Nurtured as it was on the Republican reaction to fourteen years of Democratic-type regulation of business, passage of the bill nevertheless required all-out assurance by its supporters that nothing would weaken ICC control over the rates recommended by the railroads; that the Commission's power to change, suspend, or revoke—as well as to approve—these rates would remain unimpaired; that,

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in effect, the bill would only ease and expedite the complex task of devising rate schedules.

Yet, hardly had the President's veto been over-ridden when the whole wondrously effective and intricately organized railroad lobby went back to work. Power, having an unhappy way of dissipating with non-use, had to be kept stoked up. So—through their own many publications, their heavy national advertising program, the cooperative "Railroad Hour" radio series, and the endless flow of "canned" editorials and "news" stories picked up by small town papers—the line was peddled: railroads were being severely hurt by the inflation because of their inability, under ICC regulations, to meet rising costs with adequate rate increases. And the small army of cheerful, charming men daily left the headquarters of the Association of American Railroads to hover about the corridors and offices of the ICC, the Senate, and the House with the same message.

WITH the advent of the Eighty-first Congress, a convenient target was erected to unify these efforts. Senate Resolution 50 authorized a comprehensive study of the whole field of domestic land and water transportation, with the ostensible goal of a wholesale re-writing of the Interstate Commerce Act. A subcommittee headed by ex-Senator Francis Myers (D—Pa.), aided by a staff of railroad-minded assistants, began the task of collecting testimony, which, by the end of the hearings, totalled nearly two thousand printed pages.

A long parade of railroad spokesmen deposited with the friendly subcommittee a brilliantly organized case for comprehensive emancipation of the railroads from the restrictions of the Interstate Commerce Act. Their presentation clearly dominated the printed hearings, and became, in the Eighty-second Congress, the basis for the introduction of dozens of implementing bills by their Senate friends: Senators Bricker (R—Ohio), Capehart (R—Ind.), and O'Conor (D—Md.). During the spring of 1952, another two thousand pages of hearings, again dominated by railroad spokesmen, went to the printers.

Out of this legislative welter two bills, S. 2518 and S. 2519—"grandparents" of the junior version of S. 1461—attracted the bulk of attention. This pair of bills, almost ludicrous in their obvious design to render the ICC completely impotent for rate-regulating purposes, would have forced the Commission to grant any rate increases proposed by the railroads, solely on the basis of their unsupported declaration of "need."

By revealing their proposals in this extreme form, however, the railroad strategists made a serious mistake. Whether or not they had hoped to give themselves plenty of bargaining room, they succeeded in accomplishing two unwanted results: (1) revealing the radical extent of their ultimate plans to kill ICC rate regulation, and (2) coalescing in the opposition every interested group, public and private, shipper and consumer. Thus, they lost any chance they may have had for consideration of the bills on the Senate floor.

WITH the Eighty-third Congress came Republican control of the Senate, a new committee chairman in Charles W. Tobey of New Hampshire, and a revised, consolidated, somewhat moderated form of the legislation—S. 1461, father of the current substitute bill. Tobey was a pleasant surprise for the railroads. Long an arch opponent, Tobey had fought the Reed-Bulwinkle bill and constantly belabored the railroads for their opposition to the St. Lawrence Seaway development program. Yet, right from the start, Tobey was an enthusiastic, single-minded partisan of the railroads' cause. Presiding over four days of intensive hearings on the new bill, Tobey left no doubt as to his own position. It was the position, too, of the committee majority—which promptly reported the bill favorably to the full Senate.

S. 1461 was a more subtle work of legislative draftsmanship than its parents had been. It did not arrogantly prevent the Interstate Commerce Commission from considering rate-increase requests before they went into effect; it simply added new standards under which the ICC could not refuse the increases. It generously provided sixty instead of thirty days before the increases were to become effective; and it embraced in its provisions other forms of transportation, thus relieving the sting of railroad partisanship and, incidentally, making strong supporters out of former opponents.

In spite of the shifting alignments, however, the opposition was formidable. It included every federal agency concerned with transportation, for in spite of the change of administration the Government remained the largest user of transportation services. State commissions, farm organizations, shippers' associations, retail groups and chambers of commerce all joined in opposition.

By the time the bill could be brought up for debate July had rolled around, the legislative time-table was crowded with appropriations bills and other urgent matters. Opposition Senators had simply to intimate to acting Majority Leader Knowland that debate might be extended on the bill. In the face of the threatened filibuster, S. 1461 was simply laid aside for the remainder of the session.

Laid aside—but not forgotten. Convinced that 1954 was a do-or-die proposition, the railroads consented to a further bite out of their once fat plum. S. 1461 in its revised form—now Bricker's "substitute" bill—stated only that the ICC must rule one way or another on rate-increase applications, on an interim basis, within sixty days. Gone were the changed standards and the procedural gimmicks tending to pressure rates ever upward. Innocuous as it appeared, however, the bill could not escape its heritage, which shaped it as a clear indict-

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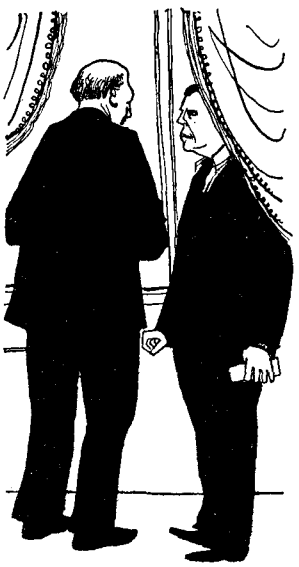
ment of ICC rate regulation and as implicit recognition of the railroad's claim to more and speedier rate relief.

Senator Bricker, who had succeeded the late Senator Tobey as chairman of the Commerce committee, was certain of success. Convinced that his substitute bill met most of the serious objections to the legislation, he was assured too, of Presidential support, for him an unusual experience. This came, according to railroad sources, at the instigation of Fred Gurley, president of the Santa Fe Railroad and a close friend and supporter of the President, and William Faricy, president of the Association of American Railroads, during — of all things — a golf match. In view of the previous opposition of his own Administration spokesmen, and with no hearings held or reports solicited on the new version of the bill, the President's quiet action might have been considered unusual. But it should have been effective.



WHETHER or not they knew the President had wrapped the mantle of his legislative program around the bill, its opposition was not intimidated. Senators Monroney, Smathers and Douglas proceeded to give a brilliant demonstration of how to one-two-three punch a bill to death.

Concentrating on the bill's history, they hammered at the contradiction in the position of the proponents, i.e., if the bill would not change the basic rate-making structure, if it only provided for the sixty-day interim decision, why should the bill be so urgent when the Commission already was making interim decisions within that period? They dissected the economics implicit in the bill, demonstrating the impossibility of holding rates within reason under the standards suggested for the Commission's guidance, emphasizing that any automatic increase of rates during an inflationary period only speeded the operation of the spiral. They uncovered the feature which relieved railroads from the requirement of demonstrating their need for increased rates. They exposed the basic fallacy in the advocates' position: that railroads, in fact, had enjoyed in recent years the highest level of earnings since the early twenties, and that the Commission, rather than being niggardly, had been most generous in granting them eleven general rate increases from 1946 to 1952, allowing a cumulative increase in rates of nearly eighty per cent, and granting the increases, on the average, within three and one half months of the request. And opponents ridiculed the bill as a "quickie" rate-increase proposal, and had a lot of fun doing it.

SENATOR Monroney moved at the beginning of the second day of debate that the bill be sent back to the Interstate & Foreign Commerce Committee for further consideration. This motion allowed unobstructed concentration on the main issue—blocking, in the nicest possible way, a questionable bit of legislation. On this issue Southern Democrats, traditionally smarting under railroad discrimination against their region, could join with Northern, labor-minded Democrats. With them, too, would be the farm-bloc Senators, even more directly dependent on freight rates and unhappy at railroad efforts to restrict cheaper truck transportation.

And the coalition held together—thirty-nine yeas (for recommittal) to thirty-seven nays—to the evident chagrin of over-confident Republicans who, as it turned out, had so severely miscalculated their strength that they advised ailing Hugh Butler to stay in his office, that his vote wouldn't be needed. Only two Democrats, Johnson of Colorado and Frear of Delaware, bolted the party-line vote, while Republicans Aiken, Dworshak, Langer, Mundt and Young, all farm-bloc Senators, joined the opposition.

The death of S. 1461 had other effects. Ready to take advantage of a favorable legislative climate, railroad lobbyists had optimistically prepared action on other bills in their program. Now, however, the railroad program was finished, for the Eighty-third Congress, at least. The railroads appear unready to risk further defeat in this session, and the Republican leadership would hesitate to bring up any more railroad bills, faced, as they are, with a rapidly approaching adjournment target date.

Consistently poor judgment plagued the railroads all the way through: their propaganda was too obvious; their estimate of the pro-business sentiment of the Senate too high; their attempt to kill rate-regulation too flagrant; and their timing bad. But most serious of all, probably, was their miscalculation of their own economic importance. The millions of merchants, farmers, and consumers, who daily depend on railroad transportation — speaking through their organizations — could not remain silent when their own best interests were so obviously at stake. For the principle of S. 1461, even in its watered-down form, and the precedent it would have established, would so severely have weakened the idea of federal regulation of interstate public utilities that the Senate could not quite swallow it.

FRANCIS J. KEENAN.

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THE SCREEN

BY AIR, LAND AND SEA

AS photographed in color and wide-screen CinemaScope, under the supervision of Sir Gordon Craig, "The Royal Tour of Queen Elizabeth and Philip" is a handsome travelogue with the added attraction and prestige of a couple of engaging and regal young people. What this version of Elizabeth's and Philip's tour of the Empire lacks is warmth and humanity. The pictures are so carefully edited and Gerald Sanger has written the accompanying narration with such dead seriousness that the total effect is much more stuffy than could have been intended.

I have no objection to the fact that there are more views of what Philip and Elizabeth saw than there are of Philip and Elizabeth themselves. There are beautiful shots of the Fiji Islands and Tonga (with its own impressive queen) and of the countryside in New Zealand, and the gorgeously decked-out harbor of Sydney, and of Melbourne and Perth, of Ceylon and the various places visited in Africa. But I wish there had been some close-ups of Elizabeth and Philip reacting to what they saw. The script tries to describe some of the warmth of the welcome at Malta, but fails to show us the happy reunion of Charles and Anne with their parents. It does, however, show us the royal youngsters feeding the monkeys at Gibraltar. Strangely enough "The Royal Tour," which must have had in real life its amusing and heart-warming incidents, is more formal and less stirring than the expertly-made Coronation film. But I'm sure Anglophiles and sentimental monarchists will like it anyway and find this world tour of the Commonwealth glowing in spite of the highly correct atmosphere.

SENTIMENTAL monarchists who want their movies about royalty buried in schmaltz should find "The Student Prince" to their liking. The new version has the voice of Mario Lanza singing the familiar songs of Sigmund Romberg, but it is Edmund Purdom whom we see playing the role of Prince Karl in the old operetta. It is hard to tell whether Director Richard Thorpe actually wanted newcomer Purdom to act so stiffly in portraying this young Prussian machine who is sent to Heidelberg to acquire charm and warmth, or whether Mr. Purdom needs a few more acting lessons; but in any case it is impossible to understand why Kathie (Ann Blyth wearing a blond wig and radiating charm) falls for the regal stick. She does, as you know, and this leads to much smiling through tears at the finale when Karl gives up Kathie and noblesse obliges all over the place.

STARTING in where "The Robe" left off, "Demetrius and the Gladiators" continues the story of the Greek slave who was converted to Christianity and freed by his master during the course of the first picture. In the sequel, written by Philip Dunne, Demetrius (again played by Victor Mature) is captured by the Romans and trained to be a gladiator. This provides an opportunity to turn out some pretty gory stuff in and out of the arena while wicked Caligula (Jay Robinson) leers in the background.

Thinking that God has failed him by not saving his girl friend (Debra Paget), Demetrius denounces Christianity and takes up with Messalina (Susan Hayward), a priestess of Isis who is also the wife of Caligula's uncle (Barry Jones). This leads to all kinds of orgies before Demetrius repents and rejoins Peter's flock. "Demetrius and the Gladiators" is for those who like orgies and gladiatorial games; it doesn't have much to say about Christianity.

JUST to show that Hollywood isn't the only place where these spectacular debacles are made, the Italians have turned up with a similar movie set in a slightly earlier day. "Sins of Rome" tells the story of Spartacus, who freed the slaves during the first century B.C. and led a march on Rome. Although the picture was not made in color or CinemaScope, its orgies, arena scenes and battle sequences are just as flashy as its American counterparts. Its plot, however, is even worse than that of the "Demetrius" opus; the English dialogue is dubbed into the sound track; the film has been peculiarly edited for American consumption; and the acting in it is ridiculous.

PHILIP T. HARTUNG.

COMMUNICATIONS

"PEOPLE AND PEACE"

Portland, Ore.

TO the Editors: Rarely have I seen in print any article more deeply significant than your editorial entitled "People and Peace" [May 28]. May I note certain fundamental facts, as you so well express them.

> "Recently UN experts released a report on world population trends. In it are implications which dwarf most of the day-to-day issues which divide us.
>
> "At the present time, according to the report, there are roughly two and one half billion people in the world . . . increasing (by excess of births over deaths) by about thirty millions each year. The population of the world is now estimated to be twelve times what it was in the time of Christ and five times what it was three hundred years ago.

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"That this predicted rise in world population poses a real problem is something that has to be faced. . . . Instead of looking for ways of avoiding the problem, we have to meet it head-on . . . The United States today is one of the 'have' nations. . . . But the world cannot live in peace half-fed and half-unfed."

The crucial point is clear. Life and food must be brought into balance. Otherwise Nature is bound to bring that balance, as she always has, by wars, famines or worse.

May I add one or two details implicit in the figures you quote? An increase of 30,000,000 in a year means that 80,000 more must be fed each morning for breakfast. In the United States alone we increase 7,000 daily. To care for this increase, we must build each month the equivalent of a city the size of Omaha. The New York *Times* of June 6 points out that the New York area alone now has 15,000,000 people, an increase of nine per cent in four years. And by 1970 we must be caring for a number of college students seventy per cent greater than at present.

Nor must anyone think that migration can seriously help a bursting world. Europe's excess increases 3,000,000 a year. And even the Perlman Commission pointed out that emigration could not help Asia. Non-Communist Asiatics alone increase 10,000,000 a year. And this same UN report (page 102) points out that, over the total of the nostalgic century of open frontiers, from 1801 to 1935, only a net immigration of 26.5 million crossed the ocean to the United States. The gross migration was only 38.5 million and one third returned. A single year of the world's present increase would more than fill all the immigrant space of those who come and stayed in 135 years.

Mass Oriental migration to the West has of course, always been restricted. Even to other Asian and African destinations it has been minor. While 30,000,000 Indians emigrated between 1850 and 1950, the great majority returned home. Today scarcely more than 5,635,000 Indians are living abroad. Less than two per cent of Chinese live outside China, a total of 10,875,000.

Your editorial is confident that men can produce the vast increases of food, clothing and shelter to keep this desperate spiral in balance. I agree that every step possible should be taken to increase production. And the editors of The Commonweal or other optimists will render a service beyond conception if they can show to starving men, in detail, how this is to be done.

But we must remember that even today two-thirds of the world is close to the edge of starvation. While the United States has a daily calorie supply of 3200 calories, the great Oriental masses average perhaps 1500. And, of course, a large portion receive far less than the average, anywhere. Yet today the underdeveloped countries cry out for decent living standards. To double what they have, while humanity increases 30,000,000 a year, is in my judgment a hopeless task on a limited earth.

Our per capita income in the United States is estimated as $2200 a year, though many millions even here live in relative poverty. By comparison most of the world's peoples have a per capita income less than one-tenth of ours, most of the great crowded masses averaging less than $100 a year. The great valleys of the Nile, the Yangtse and the Ganges are not less fertile than the American corn belt. But the tragic fact is that, in most of the world, the product must be divided among many more human beings per acre.

Nor does it suffice to point to what might happen if all farmers equaled the highest goals. Nowhere in life do men in general equal the leaders of genius. The Chinese have been recognized for centuries as the world's best farmers. Yet starvation has driven them to Communism. So long ago as 1929, the American Red Cross abandoned emergency relief in China as hopeless. The population, with seven children per woman, simply multiplied until another drought or flood cut it back.

India can, I think, perhaps double its productivity over the next fifty years. But that is needed right now. Eighty per cent of the people of India are said never to have had a full meal. Yet the population grows by 5,000,000 a year. And the health authorities are trying to conquer malaria and infant mortality by using DDT. If they can duplicate the success of Ceylon, they will only add numberless millions to eat the same food.

I trust your timely editorial will inspire thought. Small victories will come. But are they negligible in the total picture?

ARTHUR M. CHURCHILL.

"COLLECTIVE SECURITY"

New York, N. Y.

TO the Editors: Referring to your editorial [May 21] concerning the establishment of the "For America" group whose declared objective is "to combat supernationalism, interventionalism, one-worldism and communism" and to work towards electing Congressional candidates sympathetic with these aims, I call your attention to the Committee for Collective Security, 90 John Street, New York City, of which I am serving as Chairman of the Administrative Committee. This organization believes that national security is only possible through collective security. We are, therefore, aiding the election to Congress of candidates, regardless of party, in general accord with that philosophy.

GOODHUE LIVINGSTON, JR.

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Pleading the Absurdity of Human Existence

GUIGNOL'S BAND. By Louis-Ferdinand Celine. Translated by Bernard Frechtman and Jack T. Nile. New Directions. $5.

By WALLACE FOWLIE

GUIGNOL'S Band appeared in France just before the war and before Céline's period of exile in Denmark. His first novel, *Voyage au bout de la nuit* (*Journey to the End of the Night*) was published in 1932. It became one of the most widely read books in Europe and is still looked upon as one of the significant contemporary novels in terms of its influence on sensibility and influence on style. Céline today is back in France and a new book of his *Féerie pour une autre fois,* has recently been published. *Guignol's Band* is similar to the early books in its nihilism, despair and pornography, but it marks a development or change in style which culminates in the more recent *Féerie*.

Guignol's Band was not welcomed in France with the same degree of violent approbation and violent disapproval that had welcomed *Voyage au bout de la Nuit*. The obsessive themes of his writing and his characters, largely drawn from pimps and prostitutes, were by then familiar to his readers. The setting of *Guignol's Band* is London, during World War I, and its main action is the life of a young French soldier, Ferdinand, in the underworld where his hallucinations create the powerful pictures of human degradation which are now in Europe associated with the name of Céline.

He was the first to announce and depict that particular kind of human despair which has become an almost exclusive theme in contemporary literature: the absurdity of human life. We tend to forget how much writers like Sartre, for example, and Raymond Queneau, owe to Céline, who first established an agreement between the absurd in man's existence and the obscene in the expression he gives to daily existence. The importance of Céline in contemporary literature comes from his having proclaimed a philosophy of man and of the world which, for a time at least, dominated other philosophies and other visions.

The scandal which his books first created has been greatly attenuated. It coincided with the moment in Europe when the bourgeoisie began to feel its stability seriously threatened by prospects of war and revolution. It was the moment when Malraux replaced Gide for younger French readers, when Saint-Exupéry replaced Duhamel, when Bernanos, for Catholic readers, replaced Mauriac. Céline's first book was the most violently opposed of the period. Its pornography and its anti-Semitism were especially used in its denunciations, but it would seem today, in the light of Céline's subsequent works, including *Guignol's Band,* that the book was so strongly denounced because it was, and is, one of the most violent accusations against a world on the verge of collapse. Those readers who looked upon the book as justified saw it as the prolonged complaint of a man more sensitive than most to the tragedy of his historical period. Perhaps only Bernanos, writing from the center of a very different set of values, emitted the same negative cry against his world.

The world in *Guignol's Band,* as it was in *Voyage,* is organized according to the rules of thievery and murder. Only he who learns to ward off the blows keeps alive. Since the wickedness of the world cannot be eradicated, man has to learn how to adjust to it and live with it. Much of the existentialist literature of the forties recalls the books published by Céline in the thirties. Ferdinand's adventures in London, as related in *Guignol's Band,* have much of the "absurdism" and anguish we associate today with Sartre's *Chemins de la Liberté*.

The novels of Céline, and perhaps especially *Guignol's Band,* have been compared to vast poems or to lyric structures because of the endless thematic repetitions which characterize his writing and because of the constant metamorphoses of reality into hallucination which convert each scene in the novel into a dark underground and each character into a monster. Not since Rabelais has the torrential flow of oral speech been so copied in a literary work. This style of oral popular speech has been taken over from Céline by Sartre and by a group of younger writers in France today. But Céline surpasses them all in richness. In *Voyage au bout de la Nuit,* the stylistic unit was the long irrepressible sentence. In *Guignol's Band,* it has changed into an accumulation of brief sentences, some without verb, which are not used to develop and amplify the novelist's thought.

The difficulties of translation of such a work are tremendous. Bernard Frechtman and Jack T. Nile have had to create in their translation a comparable American speech. It has been a labor far more demanding than the translation of the usual novel, and it has turned out eminently successful. In the English translation, as well as in the original French, what Céline relates is not so important as the way in which he relates it. He is a lyric stylist who often fails to convince us but who rarely fails to move us. Each book is a kind of triumph in the pure forcefulness of language, in the pure excess of verbiage. Céline decomposes the usual literary sentence in order to rebuild it in accord with his own rhythm and his own vision.

No Toads

THE ETERNAL SMILE AND OTHER STORIES. By Par Lagerkvist. Random House. $4.50.

By VIVIAN MERCIER

LET'S face it: it's not desperately hard for a competent Swedish writer to win a Nobel Prize for Literature. Mr. Lagerkvist has been a member of the Swedish Academy, which awards the prize, since 1940;

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it would be foolish to say that this fact has hindered his recognition when we note he is at least the fourth Swede to win the award since 1901. Most people have heard of Selma Lagerlof, but who now recalls Verner von Heidenstam or Erik A. Karlfeldt, two other Swedish winners? Mr. Lagerkvist's poetry may possibly overwhelm the reader in the original Swedish, but the evidence provided by *The Eternal Smile and Other Stories* does not suggest that he is one of the great prose masters, though the works in this selection have presumably been chosen to show him to the best advantage. The translations *sound* good, and Professor Richard B. Vowles puts up a strong case for the author in his introduction; however, unless *The Dwarf* and *Barabbas,* two novels already published here, prove better than the book before me, I think I'll give up on Lagerkvist.

Most of the work in the new volume—all of which dates from the period 1920-35—classes Lagerkvist with the German and Central European "Expressionist" movement which had its heyday around 1910-25, though it stemmed from the later work of Strindberg, who died in 1912. "The Eternal Smile" begins: "There were once upon a time a few of the dead sitting together somewhere in the darkness." To the instructed this promises vague and platitudinous musings on the nature of Life and Death—a promise which is on the whole fulfilled.

The Expressionists were more interested in the abstract than in the concrete, in ideas than in phenomena, in Man than in men; hence their characters, and Lagerkvist's, are all too often walking abstractions—He, She, The Dead. The Expressionists, too, were great seekers after God, and unfortunately they usually managed to find, not Him, but someone made in their own image whom any self-respecting theologian could demolish in about five minutes. Kafka, and Kafka alone, having lost the God of his fathers, was profound enough not to "find" one of these custom-made deities. Having apparently rejected Lutheranism in his adolescence, Lagerkvist seems to me to waver between a humanism that is worthy of respect and a deism that is but a bloodless Lutheranism. In a Commonweal article last December, "Why the Swedes Are Sad," my ex-roommate, Donat O'Donnell, suggested that this is a common Swedish predicament.

In general, I would warn readers who do not take kindly to the Scandinavian twilight against most of the longer pieces in this volume—especially "The Hangman" and "The Masquerade of Souls." As "The Eternal Smile" contains a surprise or two near the end and may be considered Lagerkvist's most interesting foray into pseudo-theology, perhaps these impatient readers should struggle through it anyway.

To my mind, Lagerkvist's symbolism is most effective when rooted in explicit realism. The little story "Father and I" evokes a boy's walk with his father along the railroad tracks—such a walk being safe and pleasurable in rural Sweden, as in rural Ireland—and many of its vivid details reminded me of similar walks with my own father. Thus I tended to be highly receptive to the symbolic—or allegorical—element when it appeared. An unscheduled train, without lights, suddenly roars past, nearly running down father and son: "That was how this world, this life, would be for me; not like Father's, where everything was secure and certain." Admittedly this passage beats the reader over the head with an idea that is trite enough, but the short story as a whole stands up, even under a critical eye. So do such bits of realism as "The Marriage Feast," where simple goodness is shown to be as real as evil is, and "Guest of Reality," probably in part autobiographical, which tells of a death-obsessed boy's ultimate rejection of the stifling, though loving, constriction of a Lutheran home where the Bible is the parents' constant and only reading.

Professor Vowles is right in describing "The Childen's Campaign," a short satire on war, as "Swiftian" in its deadly irony and meticulous documentation of a fantasy world. One of the briefest sketches, "A Hero's Death," deserves to rank with the best of Kafka's *Parables,* but some others just as short would not be out of place in a high-school yearbook.

Marianne Moore once asked of poetry that it "present for inspection imaginary gardens with real toads in them. . . ." Par Lagerkvist can produce imaginary gardens all right, but they do not usually convince us, because the real toads are missing; at other times he supplies the real toads without the gardens; only on a few occasions does he manage to blend the observed particular and the imagined generality in a compelling unity.

Academe

PICTURES FROM AN INSTITUTION. By Randall Jarrell. Knopf. $3.50.

By ANNE FREMANTLE

THE aphorisms of Leonardo, the verse of Michelangelo and the letters of Van Gogh are but a few of the many proofs of how exasperatingly well painters write. For poets to write admirable novels was a Victorian accomplishment—George Meredith and John Masefield are obvious examples. Now America has a poet who writes flawless prose, who blows into the English language with some magic bellows, and the dusty embers glow like burning roses.

Mr. Jarrell is so perfectly a novelist that his readers are left drooling in angry envy, for a poet has no business etching so well in vitriol, nor producing the perfect character-revealing gesture or incident. Indeed, he should not know so much about individuals and their hidden springs, for poets are supposed to be distillers, not psychologists. Yet Mr. Jarrell takes a year at Benton, a girls' college, and dissects his colleagues there so anatomically, yet so artistically, that they move for us like skeletons performing some splendid pavan, exhibiting every ivory bone, yet always moving with so cadenced an air that there is an

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organic grace about them, and about their relationships, however gauche any one may seem if studied individually.

Benton was a progressive college, and Mr. Jarrell asks, "Is an institution always a man's shadow shortened in the sun, the lowest common denominator of everyone in it? Benton was." Yet it was lovely all year. In spring the air was full of appleblossoms, in winter of snowflakes, and "the red-cheeked snow-booted girls stood knee-deep on their pedestals of snow and the frost crystals of their windowpanes were not frost crystals at all, but cut-outs of Matisse's last period, that had been scissored from the unused wedding dress of Elaine the Lily Maid of Astolat. In autumn all Benton was burning, and the students walked under the branches of the fire—how was it that they walked among flames and were not consumed?"

In summer, though, it was best of all, dark, cool and green under the great trees. And the girls were so pretty that Dr. Rosenbaum, the sentimental Austrian composer, blinked, dazzled. But "their education was, for a good many of the girls, what they themselves would have called a traumatic experience" —the psychologists shooed them out of their ignorant complacency, or, as one girl put it, her teacher thought her a bourgeois prejudice and "she wants me to get rid of myself."

Dwight Robbins, made President at thirty-four instead of the statutory twenty-nine, knew that the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil *is* the Tree of Life, and he lay "sleeping in its branches, his parted lips smelling pleasantly of apples." He was not, Gertrude complained, a man, he was an institution, and about anything, "anything at all, he believed what it was expedient for the President of Benton College to believe." When he was elected people said, "They've elected *Tarzan,*" and "You don't mean he's *thirty-four*" and his wife, South African pretending to be English, was his one cross; she liked no one, and no one liked her.

But Dwight Robbins is not Mr. Jarrell's hero. His twin heroines are Gertrude and Constance, Constance being, as it were, the Amy (of *Vanity Fair*), Gertrude the Becky Sharp. Gertrude, temporarily professor of Creative Writing at Benton, was "the" novelist, of course, and "her bark was her bite, and many a bite has lain awake all night longing to be Gertrude's bark." Gertrude's gift for decoration was such that she and Sidney, her husband, "had gone into a bare apartment and after a few days had got it looking barer." Gertrude, writing a book about Benton, "appreciated the advantages of Creation. 'It's nice not to have to lie out at some water-hole with a flashbulb, but just to be able to ask your eland home to dinner.'" So at a party for her elands, she feeds them appallingly — she was a disastrous cook, and she lied like a mixture of Hitler and Chekhov.

Among Gertrude's guests were Flo Whitaker and her husband, he a dim, flapping, crane-like sociologist, she, dishpan hands all over, an Informed Voter. Had Peter Bell mentioned his yellow primrose, she would have exclaimed, not "dicotyl-

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See page 350

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edon," but "we mustn't blame it for its color." She could not bear to read history "because the position of women was so—so *degraded,*" and when her little boy told her, "I dreamed I was married to a girl with blue blood," answered anxiously, "We Americans don't believe in things like that any more, dearest" and was greatly relieved when it transpired the dream-girl was using her metabolic cycles instead of oxygen.

Constance, also at Gertrude's dinner party, is a different kettle of fish. So beautiful that some people treated her unusually well, for "when you looked at Constance in a certain light, or when she had a certain look, you kept on looking and stopped because your heart was in your throat." Luckily for Constance, who had majored in music, the Rosenbaums adopt her, and she is completely happy. Dr. Rosenbaum is a pastiche of all refugee professors, kindly, a genius, brilliant, infinitely wise, occasionally humorous. He has a Russian wife who adores him, an ex-singer, and a Persian cat: "Like most Europeans, they gave the impression of wanting to shake hands with the cat whenever it came into the room, to shake hands with a short, formal sentence."

Constance's acceptance of, and by, the Rosenbaums is the real denouement of the book, when Gertrude, sabre-toothed to all but her Sidney, is revealed as rather a pet, and all the sharp sentences dissolve in the poetry that is in the pity.

An ambrosial novel — perfectly seasoned, too.

Valiant Woman

THE DOLLMAKER. By Harriette Arnow. Macmillan. $5.

By JEAN HOLZAUER

THE DOLLMAKER is a long (549 pages), dogged account of a rustic Kentucky family transplanted during World War II from their native hills to the teeming slums of Detroit. It attempts to explore the personal and social tensions consequent to this move, and bears down hard on the advantages of impoverished living on the land over impoverished living in the city. The point is made, at the expense of a surfeit of intensely drab reading.

Gertie Nevels, the mother of the family and the central character, is a strong, raw-boned woman capable of almost infinite suffering. Her capacity is tested to the utmost. The first scene of the book has her riding a mule to the doctor through a rainstorm, with one of her little boys who is strangling of croup. The last scene shows her chopping up a woodcarving of Christ, on which she has expended all of the energy and inspiration left over from her family problems for months. Between these two episodes she is forced to give up her farm, accept slum life, see her oldest son leave home, see one of her daughters, divested of her meager portion of childish happiness, killed by a train.

The wood carving of Christ is evidently intended as a symbol.

THE DOWNSIDE REVIEW

A Quarterly of Catholic Thought

Spring 1954

MEDITATION ON NOTHING — *Frederick D. Wilhelmsen*

NEO-POSITIVISM AND THE EXISTENCE OF GOD — *J. W. Conway*

REFLEXIONS ON SARTRE — *Dom Sebastian Moore*

OU-BOUM AND VERBUM — *Dennis Hickley*

THE LIVING WORD — *Hugh Dinwiddy*

REVIEWS OF BOOKS — COMMENTARY

60c

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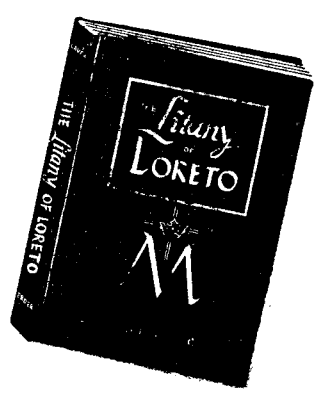

Father Klaver here supplies a much-needed explanation of the history, theology and devotional content of the Litany of Loreto. Presenting a series of meditations on each invocation of the litany, he gives enough background of the various titles to provide the reader with a clear understanding of the prerogatives of Our Lady.

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Ideas Abroad

The dispatches from abroad published in this magazine are, we believe, unique. Commonweal dispatches report the effect and influence of political developments abroad, the climate and temper of each place, the ideas and popular feelings which affect the politics of our times.

Last week, for example, Gunnar D. Kumlien wrote from Jerusalem on the temptation to violence which has so characterized the twentieth century. Other recent reports have dealt with the extraordinary movement for the homeless in France led by the Abbe Pierre, with the social problems of an English industrial city, and with the special character of Communism in Italy.

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Gertie's worry regarding it is that she is never to find a face worthy of the subject. At the end of the story, she reflects, "Why some of my neighbors down there in th alley — they would ha done." But as she has just hacked the statue to bits, the reflection comes too late.

Few of the characters are notably articulate, but in a story of such length, most of them get a chance to do some talking. Their conversation is written in various kinds of dialect, in that annoying method which employs altered spelling to indicate illiterate origin. Thus "of" becomes "uv", "reckon" becomes "recken", "from becomes "frum" and "the", "th". Miss Arnow's readers, testing their own pronunciations, may be startled to note that they, too, are hill-billies.

The primary emotion aroused by such novels is regret. One can easily hear, as he closes the book, the mellifluous voice of an announcer: "Will Gertie Nevels salvage the remains of her family and carve another statue? Tune in next Tuesday . . ."

Boozy Wisdom

SWEET THURSDAY. By John Steinbeck. Viking. $3.50.

By ROBERT H. BOYLE

SEVERAL years ago, Edmund Wilson, in writing of John Steinbeck, remarked: ". . . when his curtain goes up, he always puts on a different kind of show." Mr. Wilson couldn't have been more wrong as far as Mr. Steinbeck's latest novel is concerned. *Sweet Thursday* is nothing more than a repeat, albeit postwar, performance of *Cannery Row*.

And it is a pity. Mr. Steinbeck has let his rooters down. Of late, some persons have started to take Mr. Steinbeck and his work so seriously that a number of them felt that his absence from the academic quarterlies was rather poor pool on the part of the critics.

A debatable point. But at any rate, one thing is certain. Mr. Steinbeck has presented both his public and critics alike with a grade-B potboiler in *Sweet Thursday*, a sentimental mishmash of a sequel involving the awkward antics of Doc, Mack, Hazel, and the girls at the Bear Flag. The plot, digressions aside, is simple. Doc is back from the army puttering amongst his rattlesnakes and octopi, all set to rehabilitate himself by writing a scientific paper. But Doc is unable to think of the business at hand. His mind prefers to wander amongst the birds and the bees. Doc is lonely, and there is but one answer in a novel of this sort. Doc needs a woman.

This gives Mr. Steinbeck his chance to play the sugar-coated Maupassant by introducing a tart named Suzy. Needless to say, Suzy reforms and Doc finally wins her. But one really knows this all along. It is only a matter of time and 273 pages. Suzy is too much of a lady to put up with a tart's life, and one knows she never will because, in Mr. Steinbeck's words, "a good hustler is flat-chested."

Cannery Row wasn't one of Mr. Steinbeck's better efforts, but he did manage to write his lyric to the vacant lot with a certain amount of charm. But there wasn't enough to carry over to *Sweet Thursday*.

THE NEW CENTURY CYCLOPEDIA OF NAMES. Edited by Clarence L. Barnhart. Appleton-Century-Crofts. 3 vols. $39.50.

This work consists of 4342 pages, in three weighty volumes, prepared by more than 350 people, listing more than one hundred thousand proper names — people, fictional characters, places and organizations, together with information concerning each name. A monumentally painstaking job intended as a reference work but likely to ensnare the reader into idle hours of paging through names, names, names.

REVIEWERS

Wallace Fowlie, author of a number of books of literary criticism, teaches at Bennington.

Vivian Mercier is the co-editor of the anthology *1000 Years of Irish Prose*.

Jean Holzhauer reviews for several Catholic magazines.

Robert H. Boyle is a New York newspaperman.

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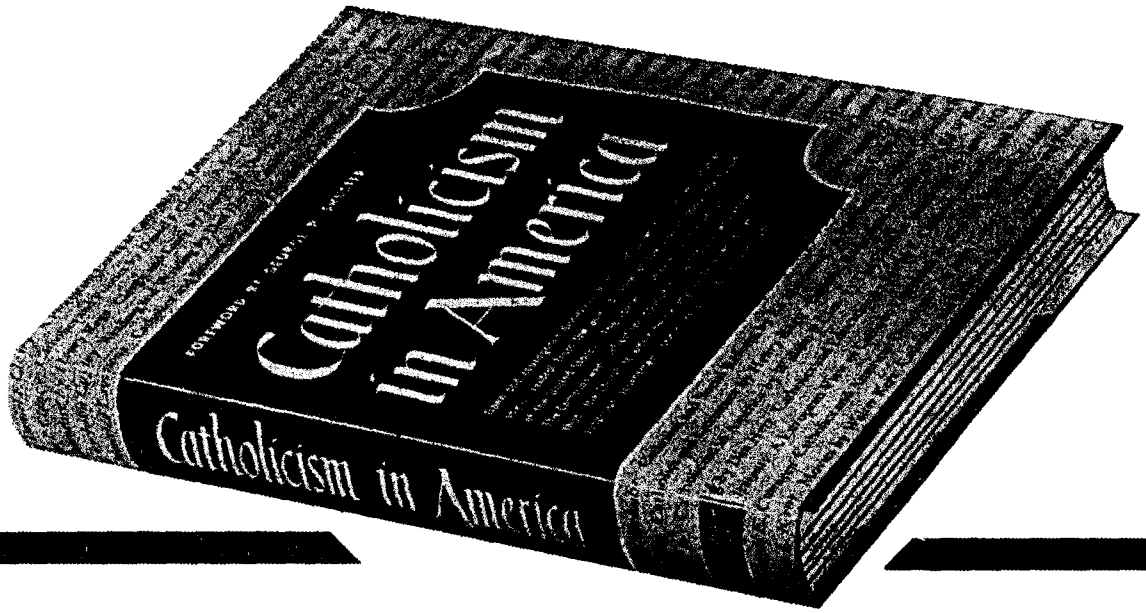

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